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SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 2nd MEETING

Chairman: Mr. AL-SHAALI (United Arab Emirates)

CONTENTS

OPENING STATEMENT BY THE CHAIRMAN

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

STATEMENT BY THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL FOR DEVELOPMENT AND INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC COOPERATION

STATEMENT BY THE UNDER-SECRETARY-GENERAL FOR INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS

ORGANIZATION OF WORK

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The meeting was called to order at 10.10 a.m.

OPENING STATEMENT BY THE CHAIRMAN

1. The CHAIRMAN said he was pleased to note that, in the face of international pressure, racism was on the decline, and that certain forms of racial discrimination had been abolished in South Africa. Concerted efforts nevertheless had to continue until the Constitution embodying the apartheid system was also abolished. In the developed world, progress had been made in women's rights, but there were many more basic changes still to be made, particularly in the developing world, if women were to play their proper role as the basis of the family and society. The success of the 1990 World Summit for Children proved that priorities had now changed to include concern for the family.

2. The achievement of prosperity for all societies, was, however, still remote and would require painstaking work. Poverty posed the main threat to stability, and instability in turn threatened democracy. In the developing world, backwardness, disease and ignorance were the main cause of instability, whilst stability in the economically developed countries was threatened by crime, drug abuse, unemployment and unequal distribution of wealth. It was a universal responsibility to ensure that the most important resource for the future, namely children, did not fall prey to the epidemic of drugs and drug-trafficking. The resolutions of the Committee had a vital role to play in combating such social ills.

3. As for the elderly, the designation of 1 October as the International Day for the Elderly was a tribute to the effective contribution which they could make towards the development of society. Today's changing population structure in which the percentage of elderly people was increasing meant that special attention should be given to protecting their rights. Health, housing, education, employment and women's issues were all matters of concern to them. He was therefore pleased that the Economic and Social Council had referred the United Nations Principles for Older Persons to the Committee for approval.

4. In conclusion, he hoped that the consensus which had generally characterized the Committee's decision-making over the past years would further improve, emphasizing that the results would justify the greater effort and sacrifice required.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

5. Mrs. PILOTO (Zimbabwe) nominated Mr. Alfaro-Pineda (El Salvador) for the office of Vice-Chairman.

6. Ms. COOMBS (New Zealand) nominated Mr. Slaby (Czechoslovakia) for the office of Vice-Chairman.

7. Mr. Alfaro-Pineda (El Salvador) and Mr. Slaby (Czechoslovakia) were elected Vice-Chairmen by acclamation.

8. The CHAIRMAN said that the Rapporteur would be elected at a subsequent meeting.

STATEMENT BY THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL FOR DEVELOPMENT AND INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC COOPERATION

9. Mr. BLANCA (Director-General for Development and International Economic Cooperation) said that the issues before the Committee concerned the most critical aspects of the human condition, both within and among societies: elimination of racial discrimination and exercise of the right of peoples to self-determination, evolution of the world social situation and integration of social groups - youth, the elderly, disabled persons and the family - in development, advancement of women, drug-abuse control and crime prevention, respect for human rights, and humanitarian questions. The ideological confrontation of the cold-war era was giving way to a more propitious international atmosphere in which those issues could be tackled more constructively.

10. In the new climate of international cooperation, the United Nations would be called upon to play a far more significant role in world affairs than ever before. The task in the 1990s would be to help to consolidate the recent political gains, including progress in the field of peace, security and disarmament, and to take advantage of the emerging convergence of views on many of the critical economic, social and humanitarian issues. Most of the issues on the United Nations agenda were closely related and lack of progress in one area could retard development in another. Lasting peace and security would be illusory without economic development and social progress; hence, the work of the United Nations in the economic, social and related sectors would need to be further strengthened in order to deal effectively and in an integrated manner with the complex global problems facing the increasingly interdependent family of nations.

11. A salient feature of the emerging consensus on development issues was the strong emphasis on human development and popular participation. The Declaration on International Economic Cooperation, in particular the revitalization of Economic Growth and Development of the Developing Countries, adopted at the eighteenth special session of the General Assembly, referred to the need "to realize the basic rights of all human beings to a life free from hunger, poverty, ignorance, disease and fear". The International Development Strategy for the 1990s adopted by the General Assembly at its forty-fifth session called for "a development process that is responsive to social needs, seeks a significant reduction in extreme poverty, promotes the development and utilization of human resources and skills and is environmentally sound and sustainable".

(Mr. Blanca)

12. In view of the widening gap between rich and poor, both among and within nations, there was growing agreement that the eradication of poverty and the adoption of broad social strategies required dynamic economic growth, effective population programmes, long-term commitments to human development and environmental sustainability. Basic education and primary health care programmes were major priorities for human development. The new consensus, while acknowledging the responsibility of each country for its own development and stressing the importance of national policies, emphasized the international community's obligation to create a global environment that facilitated economic growth and social development in developing countries. It reaffirmed the role of the United Nations as a unique forum where the full range of economic and social matters could be tackled in an integrated manner.

13. Political, economic, demographic, technological and cultural changes in recent years had caused social issues to assume greater prominence and had challenged many assumptions about the nature of social progress and the means of achieving it. The basic issue was the capacity of social institutions to adjust to new realities and the appropriate role for Governments, including their relationship to other social agents in managing change and promoting well-being. There was growing concern about social welfare in many countries undergoing socio-economic transformation, mainly lest the safety net provided by social-welfare services in formerly centrally-planned economies might be lost in the transition to market economies. It was essential to ensure that the fundamental principles of social welfare and the provision of essential services were maintained, whatever the economic system.

14. The United Nations had been the catalyst for the development and adoption of guidelines, programmes and plans of action for a global social strategy, including the Guiding Principles of Developmental Social Welfare Policies and Programmes, the draft programme of the International Year of the Family in 1994, the World Programme of Action concerning Disabled Persons, the International Plan of Action on Ageing and the draft world youth programme of action. The basic objective of all those documents was human development. In that connection he said that, pursuant to the Economic and Social Council's request to the Secretary-General to consult all Member States on the possibility of convening a world summit on social development, the Secretary-General had designated Mr. Samovia of Chile as his Special Representative.

15. The Committee would be continuing its comprehensive review and appraisal of the implementation of the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women to the Year 2000, with particular reference to preparations for the 1995 World Conference on Women. In connection with the second priority theme of the Strategies, the effective mobilization and integration of women in development, his 1991 report on operational activities for development, pursuant to General Assembly resolution 44/171, contained a separate chapter on United Nations efforts to integrate women in development, with particular attention to literacy, education, health, population,

environment, employment and participation in decision-making. The report made it clear that women continued to suffer acute socio-economic hardships and inequality in many parts of the world, so that the task of improving the level of women should remain a priority.

16. Over the past 15 years, the United Nations had played a catalytic role in bringing the issue of women in development to international prominence. The system-wide objective for the period 1990-1995 was to facilitate the "mainstreaming" of women in the development process. Many economic, social and political factors had to be taken into account in order to ensure that women had equal access to economic opportunities and resources. While considerable advances had been made, further progress was essential if women were to achieve their full potential as the managers, decision makers, producers and beneficiaries of development. In that connection he mentioned a recent important United Nations publication, The World's Women 1970-1990: Trends and Statistics, prepared under the guidance of the Department of International Economic and Social Affairs.

17. The Committee would also be dealing with a wide range of human-rights issues, one of the most important being preparations for the 1993 World Conference on Human Rights to be held in Berlin at the invitation of the German Government. In accordance with General Assembly resolution 45/155, one of the major objectives of the Conference would be to examine "the relation between development and the enjoyment by everyone of economic, social and cultural rights as well as civil and political rights". In that connection, the Commission on Human Rights at its forty-seventh session had recommended that the Preparatory Committee for the Conference "should keep in view the equal importance and indivisibility of all categories of human rights as well as the interrelationship between human rights, democracy and development". He himself believed that fundamental human rights were indivisible and could be achieved only when there was peace among nations and political, economic and social security within nations. He therefore supported the premise that the right to development was an integral component of fundamental human rights.

18. He also believed that it was in the interests of all nations, particularly the developed countries, to strengthen multilateral cooperation and help progress towards an equitable international society. The United Nations had a special responsibility in that regard. The Charter established a clear link between peace and security and international development and social progress; global security could be ensured only when economic relations between States were balanced.

19. There was a pressing need to galvanize international support for incorporating the right to development as a basic human right, and the United Nations should pursue the problem at two levels: efforts to develop a consensus for the right to development to be seen as an integral component of human rights; and the further incorporation of the human-rights dimension in all stages of development.

(Mr. Blanca)

20. In 1990 he had represented the Secretary-General at the Eighth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and Treatment of Offenders, held in Havana - a solid achievement for the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Programme. Action taken by the General Assembly in that year, in unanimously approving draft instruments and resolutions covering a wide range of important issues, was indicative of changing perceptions and emerging agreements. It reflected deep concern about the steady rise in crime in many parts of the world, particularly in its dangerous new forms and transnational dimensions; it was a recognition of the adverse effects of crime on economic development, social progress, secure environment, enjoyment of human rights and political stability; and it demonstrated the international community's political will to make the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Programme more effective and more responsive to the needs of Member States.

21. In that connection he referred to the successful outcome of the recent meeting of the Intergovernmental Working Group on the Creation of an Effective International Crime and Justice Programme. The Working Group's recommendations on the content and structure of the Programme would be submitted to the Committee through the Ministerial Summit Meeting to be held in Paris from 21 to 23 November at the invitation of the French Government. The proposed draft resolution, statement of principles and programme of action would give the Programme's content a new orientation towards practical assistance to Member States, in particular the developing countries, and would provide for a framework of inter-State collaboration. The Ministerial Summit Meeting offered a unique opportunity for setting the course of future United Nations action in that area. Its success, in the context of global economic and political developments, would depend on the political will of Member States.

22. Over the past five years the international community had become increasingly conscious of the need to intensify and widen the scope of its efforts against illicit use of and traffic in narcotic drugs. It had been recognized that the global scourge of drugs caused widespread deprivation and misery, eroded legal structures and endangered political stability. The determination to take concerted action to combat the drug problem had culminated in the adoption by the General Assembly at its seventeenth special session of the Political Declaration and Global Programme of Action. A system-wide action plan on drug-abuse control had been formulated and the newly established United Nations international drug control programme now had the responsibility for formulating and implementing a coherent and integrated strategy. The Executive Director of the Programme, would inform the Committee of the latest developments.

STATEMENT BY THE UNDER-SECRETARY-GENERAL FOR INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS

23. Mr. AHMED (Under-Secretary-General for International Economic and Social Affairs) said that in many developing countries poverty, ill health, malnutrition and illiteracy continued to be pervasive. Natural disasters had caused misery on an enormous scale and narcotic drugs continued to rank as a major cause of crime in both producing and consuming countries. A major new concern was the fate of the physical and biological environment in view of further evidence on the extent of environmental destruction. The AIDS pandemic had become a global problem of unprecedented urgency. There was a growing concern about human rights and the relationship of the denial of those rights to the development process. Although technological innovation had provided welcome opportunities for improving the lot of mankind, it had also created new problems. The rapid political changes in the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe were having a tremendous impact on the social well-being of the people concerned. The recent events in the Gulf had resulted in indescribable misery for hundreds of thousands; and the plight of refugees in Africa continued to be a matter of serious concern.

24. Adverse trends in the world economy were severely affecting the social situation of a large number of countries, particularly in Africa and Latin America. The key to reversing those trends was the revival of sustained and sustainable growth. A substantial easing of debt burdens, increased financial flows, expanded market access for exports and a stable international environment were crucial. The development of human resources was equally important.

25. The international community was becoming increasingly aware that human beings were both the means and the end of economic development. Economic and social dimensions were indivisible. The Declaration on International Economic Cooperation and Development, adopted at the eighteenth special session of the General Assembly, emphasized the need for human resources development and the eradication of poverty. Steps must be taken to ensure that the beneficiaries of the various international plans and strategies emphasizing the human aspect of development were fully involved in the planning and implementation of policies and programmes designed to put them into effect. At the current time there were ever-increasing opportunities for greater participation by the people in the political and economic decisions of States and the Committee might wish to consider ways of monitoring the fulfilment of basic human needs as closely as economic well-being was monitored.

26. In advocating full utilization of all resources, it was essential to pay particular attention to women as key players and to tap the invaluable economic potential of that oft-neglected segment of the population. Their vital economic contribution was frequently underestimated and adjustment policies had been especially hard on women, particularly those engaged in small-scale activities and those in the informal sector. Their contribution should be especially encouraged in both the adjustment process and the normal

(Mr. Ahmed)

operation of all sectors of the economy. The World's Women 1970-1990 provided many disturbing statistics and indicators, including accurate measurement of women's contribution to economic output. Failure to properly recognize and measure the role of women in production inevitably led to gross distortions in economic decision-making and devalued women's work, perpetuating their exploitation in underpaid, unpaid and under-financed occupations.

27. The interim report on the world social situation (A/46/56 and Corr.1-E/1991/6 and Corr.1) was very selective. The major issues had been dealt with at length in the 1989 Report on the World Social Situation and its 1990 Supplement. A draft framework of the 1993 Report on the World Social Situation was annexed to the interim report. In resolution 1991/4, the Economic and Social Council had requested the Secretary-General to reorient the draft framework so that it was in consonance with the request set forth in Council resolution 1989/72 that, in addition to giving priority to an analysis of the main indicators of social progress and standards of living, the Report should also make a comprehensive analysis of the main causes and circumstances that explained negative trends in those indicators. The Department would reorient the draft framework accordingly and the revised draft would be submitted to the Council at its first regular session in 1992.

28. There had been a rapid growth of indicators in recent years in response to the burgeoning demand for better information on priority areas of concern such as human resources development, poverty eradication and the social costs of structural adjustment. The report of the Secretary-General on work being done within the United Nations system on improving quantitative and qualitative indicators on social conditions and standards of living (A/46/137-E/1991/40) reviewed the areas in which indicators had been developed and improved in recent years. Those indicators could make an important contribution to measuring changes in living standards and overall social conditions. In that regard, he pointed out that the latest Compendium of Social Statistics and Indicators had just been issued.

29. Over 1 billion people in the world lived below the poverty level. As the report on international cooperation for the eradication of poverty in developing countries (A/46/454) indicated, poverty would be substantially reduced and eventually eliminated only if countries adopted appropriate domestic policies and if long-term external support and a favourable international economic environment paralleled those efforts. Poverty eradication would clearly be facilitated by sustained economic growth in developing countries, liberalized trade, reduced interest rates and an increased transfer of resources to developing countries. The report on developing human resources for development (A/46/461) concluded that, despite certain difficulties, Governments, international organizations and non-governmental organizations had demonstrated a strong commitment to pursuing human-centred programmes. The report recommended that there should

(Mr. Ahmed)

be a more intensive utilization of the United Nations system's potential in that area and that the system must be more responsive to emerging requirements.

30. In order to mark the tenth anniversary of the World Assembly on Ageing in 1992, a special issue of the 1991 Demographic Yearbook would focus on ageing with emphasis on disability and living arrangements for elderly persons. There were also plans to publish in 1992 a separate report on the situation of elderly women. His Department's Population Division was very much involved in the preparations for the 1994 International Conference on Population and Development. Special attention would be paid to the question of the ageing of population structures.

31. The Statistical Office was following a two-pronged approach with regard to the disabled which focused on harmonizing concepts and definitions of disability on the one hand, and gathering and disseminating disability statistics on the other. The first Disability Statistics Compendium had recently been completed. The Statistical Office had also produced, in collaboration with the World Health Organization, a special report on causes of disability, published in the 1991 World Health Statistics Annual.

ORGANIZATION OF WORK

32. The CHAIRMAN drew attention to the recommendations on the organization of the session contained in section II of document A/46/250, adopted by the General Assembly at its third plenary meeting. He wished to stress that meetings must begin on time so that full use could be made of the time allocated; in order to avoid the late start of meetings, the General Assembly had decided to waive the requirement of the presence of one quarter of the members to declare a meeting of a Main Committee open and permit the debate to proceed. Where explanations of vote were concerned, he recalled General Assembly decision 34/401, which provided that a delegation should, as far as possible, explain its vote only once - either in the Committee or in plenary meeting - unless that delegation's vote in plenary meeting was different from its vote in the Committee. The General Assembly had also decided that statements made in a Main Committee should not be reproduced in extenso. Similarly, to save time, the practice of making concluding statements was to be dispensed with, except for statements by the presiding officers.

33. As to questions related to the programme budget, draft resolutions with financial implications could be adopted only if accompanied by a statement of financial implications drawn up by the Secretariat. Sufficient time must be allowed for the preparation of the estimate of expenditure and for its consideration by the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions and the Fifth Committee.

34. He also drew attention to paragraph 6 of resolution 35/10 A, in which the General Assembly had decided that all proposals affecting the schedule of

(The Chairman)

conferences and meetings made at its sessions should be reviewed by the Committee on Conferences. Furthermore, regulation 4.9 of the Regulations Governing Programme Planning (resolution 37/234, annex) provided that no Council, Commission or other competent body should take a decision involving either a change in the programme budget approved by the General Assembly or the possible requirement of expenditure unless it had received and taken account of a report from the Secretary-General on the programme budget implications of the proposal.

35. Ms. KAMAL (Secretary of the Committee), introducing document A/C.3/46/L.1 on the suggested programme of work, noted that in its resolution 45/175, on the rationalization of the work of the Third Committee, the General Assembly had adopted a new structure for the Committee's agenda and had approved its programme of work for 1991-1992.

36. In general, she had attempted to maintain the same order of consideration of items as in previous years. Item 92 (Elimination of racism and racial discrimination) and item 93 (Right of peoples to self-determination) were to be considered jointly, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 45/175. Item 95 (Advancement of women) had been switched with item 94 (a) (Social development: Questions relating to the world social situation and to youth, ageing, disabled persons and the family) so that the Director for Social Development could be present during the debate. Item 94 (b) (Social development: Crime prevention and criminal justice) was scheduled to be considered by the Committee on 9 and 10 December 1991, in order to include the report on the ministerial-level meeting on the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Programme, to be held in France from 21 to 23 November.

37. Mr. RAVEN (United Kingdom) said that his delegation would welcome early distribution of all the documentation. In particular, the Secretary-General's report on the enhancement of the United Nations structure (A/46/480) would be crucial as it would provide the foundation for the restructured drug-control programme. He therefore requested that the Secretariat should pay particular attention to the prompt preparation of that report, the contents of which would need to be examined well in advance of the debate.

38. The CHAIRMAN said that the Secretariat would do its best to comply with that request.

39. The actual number of meetings of the Committee would depend as usual on the availability of conference services, which were expected to be at the Committee's disposal until the completion of its work. In order to utilize those services to the fullest, he proposed that the timetable should be followed as strictly as possible, in particular with respect to deadlines for submitting draft proposals. It was particularly important that resolutions, which generally entailed lengthy negotiations, should be drafted by their sponsors as early as possible. Speakers should inscribe their names on the

(The Chairman)

list of speakers promptly in order to make the most efficient use of the scheduled meeting time. Moreover, speakers should be prepared to make their statements at an early stage in the general debate on any particular item. It should be noted that the list of speakers for the entire session was open. All delegations should limit their statements on each item to 15 minutes.

40. Mr. DUHS (Sweden) said that he agreed with the representative of the United Kingdom that document A/46/480 should be issued as early as possible.

41. Mrs. SHERMAN-PETER (Bahamas) said that, in connection with the report of the Working Group on the Rationalization of the Work of the Third Committee, established in September 1990, the Third Committee had agreed to review its programme of work on an annual basis. She therefore suggested that the Committee should once again establish an informal open-ended working group to review the Committee's programme of work and to recommend a programme of work for the 1992-1993 biennium.

42. Whe had had the satisfaction of serving as "facilitator" of the Working Group set up the previous year, which had dealt with a number of complex matters. In her view, the task of the working group during the current session would be much more straightforward. In the interests of continuity, she proposed that Mr. Krenkel (Austria), who had been an active participant in the previous Working Group, should be appointed as facilitator of the proposed working group.

43. Ms. KAMAL (Secretary of the Committee) said that, before commencing its work on item 94 (b), the Committee might consider setting aside two days for meetings of the proposed working group: the group could hold an informal meeting on the first day and a formal meeting on the second day. Any resolutions and reports relating to item 94 (b) could be considered at a later time.

44. The CHAIRMAN said that, if he heard no objections, he would take it that the Committee wished to appoint Mr. Krenkel (Austria) as facilitator of the working group.

45. It was so decided.

46. Mr. KRENKEL (Austria) referred to General Assembly resolution 45/175 on the rationalization of the work of the Third Committee, which had become the basis of the Committee's work and served as an example for successful reform throughout the United Nations. The programme of work contained in the resolution should be fully implemented at the forty-sixth session.

47. Reference had been made to the need for delegations to inscribe their names on the list of speakers on the day that discussion of an item was to begin. But if the report on a particular item did not appear earlier, it would be difficult for delegations to prepare their statements. It would

(Mr. Krenkel, Austria)

likewise be useful for the texts of introductory statements by Secretariat officials to be distributed, as recommended in resolution 45/175, at least three days before the introduction of the item.

48. He agreed with the proposal to limit speeches to 15 minutes, but wanted to be sure that, as agreed at the forty-fifth session, there would be only one statement on item 94 (a) on the world social situation and one on item 94 (b) on crime; one on item 98 (b) on human rights questions and one that combined item 98 (a) and (c), and one for the sub-items on refugees.

49. At the forty-fifth session, it had been decided to review the experience acquired through the new agenda, and the Third Committee should therefore have before it the draft agenda and the draft biennial programme of work, including the proposed resolutions and documentation for 1992-1993, before it concluded its deliberations. In that context, he supported the suggestion to establish an open-ended informal working group to prepare the draft report and to discuss all outstanding matters, as contained in resolution 45/175. The informal working group might meet on 2 and 3 December to examine such questions, on the understanding that any draft resolutions on crime prevention would be added at a later date.

50. He requested clarification on whether provision had been made in case the chairman of the Fifth Committee submitted proposals for the 1992-1993 programme budget to the Third Committee. Such proposals had been submitted in the past, and it had always been difficult to discuss them during the later stages of the Third Committee's work.

51. He offered to prepare a short information paper touching on such technical questions as final clauses for resolutions and the merging of resolutions that dealt with the same issue.

52. Ms. DIOP (Senegal) agreed with the proposal of the United Kingdom with regard to document A/46/480, which should be published as soon as possible. She also supported the suggestion to create a working group. While her delegation did not oppose the nomination of Austria, it would have been preferable, from a procedural point of view, to discuss the matter first before taking a decision. She also stressed the need to make the introductory statements available at least three days before discussion of the item began.

53. Ms. VASSILIOU (Greece) agreed with the United Kingdom, Sweden and Austria on the question of documentation. She asked the Secretariat to provide some indication as to when documents whose symbols did not appear in document A/C.3/46/L.1/Add.1 would become available, in particular, the report of the Secretary-General under item 98 on the activities of the Centre for Human Rights. She noted that at the forty-fifth session, difficulties had arisen in connection with the timing of documents submitted to the Third Committee.

54. Ms. KAMAL (Secretary of the Committee) said that the report relating to the Centre for Human Rights had not yet been submitted, and she could therefore give no date as to when it would be issued.

55. Mrs. SHERMAN-PETER (Bahamas) said she agreed on the importance of ensuring that introductory statements were circulated three days in advance.

56. Ms. MEHTA (India) said that once the representative of Austria had prepared the information paper, the Committee should keep open the possibility of considering it in the course of its work, rather than at the end of the session, so as to incorporate any new ideas earlier on.

57. The CHAIRMAN said that, notwithstanding the need to make documentation available before the beginning of debate, the Committee must finish its work - except for item 94 (b) - by the end of November; he would therefore ask the Secretariat to seek to ensure that such documents were available, but the Committee could not delay its work if they were not.

58. With regard to the report of the Fifth Committee, the Secretariat undertook to submit the relevant documents on 29 November in response to Austria's request. Concerning the Austrian delegation's proposal to hold a meeting to review the Committee's work, that was for delegations to decide. He asked the Austrian delegation to explain why it had chosen the dates mentioned.

59. Mr. KRENKEL (Austria), responding to the Chairman's question, noted that the Committee would meet continuously until 27 November, followed by a gap of several days before discussion began on the question of crime prevention. It would be very late to begin discussion after 10 December, especially as the General Assembly wished to complete its work by 14 December.

60. Replying to a question asked by the representative of India, he recalled that at the forty-fifth session, the Working Group had underscored how important it was for all decisions taken at the forty-sixth session to fit into the biennial programme of work.

61. Mr. RAVEN (United Kingdom) said that at the forty-fifth session, the Chairman of the Fifth Committee had solicited comments from all the Main Committees on the medium-term plan, and he asked whether the Third Committee should expect to receive a similar request at the forty-sixth session.

62. Ms. KAMAL (Secretary of the Committee) said that she had no knowledge of any such intentions on the part of the Fifth Committee. If such a request were to be received, she suggested that it might be discussed on 29 November.

63. The CHAIRMAN said he took it that the Committee wished him to introduce a ruling that all delegations should limit their statements to 15 minutes per item.

64. It was so decided.

65. The CHAIRMAN said that, in accordance with established practice, the number of statements in exercise of the right of reply for any delegation at a given meeting should be limited to two per item, five minutes for the first and three for the second.

66. In the interest of economy, 24-hour notice must be given for night meetings and for extensions or cancellations of meetings.

67. He took it that the Committee wished to approve its programme of work for the session, as contained in document A/C.3/46/L.1.

68. It was so decided.

69. The CHAIRMAN said that, if he heard no objection, he would take it that the Committee wished to extend invitations to the following special rapporteurs or representatives of the Commission on Human Rights to present their reports to the General Assembly: under item 93, Mr. Enrique Bernales Ballesteros (Peru), Special Rapporteur on the use of mercenaries; and under item 98 (c), Mr. Leliel Mikuin Balanda (Zaire), Chairman/Rapporteur of the Ad Hoc Working Group of Experts on southern Africa, Mr. José Antonio Pastor Ridruejo (Spain), Special Representative on the situation of human rights in El Salvador, Mr. Felix Ermacora (Austria), Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Afghanistan, Mr. Max van der Stoel (Netherlands), Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Iraq, and Mr. Walter Kalin (Switzerland), Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Kuwait under Iraqi occupation.

70. It was so decided.

The meeting rose at 12.20 p.m.